AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of killing microorganisms in aqueous ~~industrial~~ systems or products ~~for industrial applications~~ based on water ~~by~~ comprising adding a ~~biocidal additive~~ biocide to the system or product, wherein the biocide ~~is~~ comprises from 0.001 to 5% by weight of at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible polymer comprising ~~—based in each case on the total amount of all monomer units present in the polymer –~~

(a) from 30 to 98 mol% of styrenesulfonic acid,

(b) from 2 to 40 mol% of an N-vinyllactam, ~~and/or~~ N-vinylamine, or a mixture thereof, and

(c) from 0 to 30 mol% of ~~further~~ free-radically polymerizable monomers, wherein the mol% is based on the total molar amount of monomer units present in the polymer, and the sum of (a), (b), and (c) ~~makes~~ totals 100 mol%.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein all or some of the sulfonic acid groups are in salt form.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the ~~industrial~~ products based on water are aqueous dispersions.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the dispersion is electrostatically or ionically stabilized.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the dispersion is spray dried.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the aqueous industrial systems are refrigeration or heat exchanger circuits.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of protecting articles by applying an antimicrobial composition ~~at least~~ comprising water or a predominantly hydrous solvent mixture and a ~~biocidal additive~~ biocide to the article ~~by means of an appropriate technique~~ and removing the water or the predominantly hydrous solvent mixture, wherein the biocide is from 0.001 to 5% by weight of at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible polymer comprising ~~—based in each case on the total molar amount of all monomer units present in the polymer—~~

(a) from 30 to 98 mol% of styrenesulfonic acid,

(b) from 2 to 40 mol% of an N-vinyllactam, N-vinylamine, or a mixture thereof and

(c) from 0 to 30 mol% of free-radically polymerizable monomers, wherein the mol% is based on the total molar amount of all monomer units present in the polymer, and the sum of (a), (b), and (c) ~~makes~~ totals 100 mol%.

8. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the antimicrobial composition further comprises at least one binder.

9. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 7 ~~or 8~~, wherein the antimicrobial composition further comprises a crosslinker or a system of crosslinkers.

10. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the water-soluble and water-dispersible polymer comprises 50 to 90 mol% styrenesalfonic acid, and 3 to 30 mol% N-vinyllactam, N-vinylamine or a mixture thereof.

11. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the free-radically polymeritable monomers contain crosslinkable groups.

12. (New) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the free-radically polymeritable monomer is acetoacetoxyethyl methacrylate.

13. (New) A method as claimed in claim 10 whereinthe free-radically polymeritable monomer is present from 5 to 15 mol%.

14. (New) A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible polymer has a polydispersity M_w/M_n from 1.3 to less than 3.

15. (New) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the water-soluble and water-dispersible polymer comprises 50 to 90 mol% styrenesalfonic acid, and 3 to 30 mol% N-vinyllactam, N-vinylamine or a mixture thereof.

16. (New) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the free-radically polymeritable monomers contain crosslinkable groups.

17. (New) A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the free-radically polymeritable monomer is acetoacetoxyethyl methacrylate.

18. (New) A method as claimed in claim 15 whereinthe free-radically polymeritable monomer is present from 5 to 15 mol%.

19. (New) A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible polymer has a polydispersity M_w/M_n from 1.3 to less than 3.